

Application No.: 10/687,399
Amendments dated August 3, 2006
Response

REMARKS

By the paper mailed April 3, 2006, claims 7 - 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. More particularly, claim 7 was objected to for lack of antecedence for "said cylindrically shaped body portion". By this amendment, claims 1-6 have been cancelled and claim 7 has been amended in a manner to correct the deficiency noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mintz. By this amendment, claims 1-6 have been cancelled. Claim 7 has been amended and, for reasons presently to be discussed as amended, is believed clearly distinguishable from Mintz.

Claims 1-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fierek, *et al.*

By this amendment, claims 1-7 have been cancelled. Claims 7 and 12 have been amended and, as amended, are believed clearly distinguishable from Fierek, *et al.*

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mintz or Fierek, *et al.* By this amendment, claim 11 has been cancelled. Returning to the references of record, the patent to Mintz relates to a holder or

REMARKS continued

container for household storage of cups when not in use. By this amendment claim 7 has been amended to define the material used to make the laundry bag as being a net material which permits the flow of water therethrough. Further, claim 7 has been amended to more clearly define the closure means of the invention for closing the top portion of the generally cylindrically shaped body portion. More particularly, claim 7 is amended to define the closure means as comprising an elongated drawstring which is threadably received within a passageway formed within a skirt member that is sewn to the upper portion of the flexible mesh sidewall. Mintz neither discloses nor remotely suggests such a construction.

The patent to Fierek, *et al.*, concerns a tool carrier for organizing, storing and transporting hand tools and parts. While the Fierek, *et al.*, tool carrier discloses a closure feature, this closure feature is totally different in construction and operation from Applicant's closure feature as now specifically defined in the amended claims. More particularly, Fierek, *et al.*, defines his closure structure in column 4 starting at line 58 as comprising "a plurality of pull strings generally designated as 90. Each string, which is of a desired length is threaded along a portion of the top edge 26 of wall 29, demarcating a compartment 32 radially through the upper margin 40 of an adjoining web panel 34". In sharp contradistinction, Applicant's laundry bag as now distinctly claimed in Amended

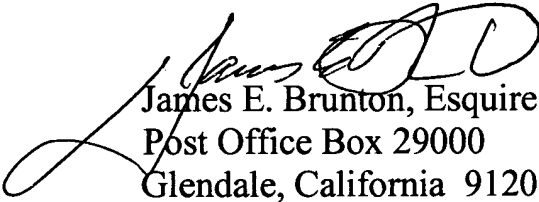
REMARKS continued

claim 7, comprises a single draw string that is threaded through a circumferentially extending passage way formed proximate the upper portion of the net side wall by means of a skirt member that is sewn to the upper side wall. New claims 14 and 15, which have been added, further define Applicant's laundry bag as including a generally spherical closure member having a central bore through which the free ends of the single drawstring pass. This particular feature is neither disclosed nor suggested in Fierek, *et al.*, or Minsk. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended as well as the new claims that have been added clearly distinguish Applicant's invention from the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. This being the case, it is respectfully submitted that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested.

REMARKS continued

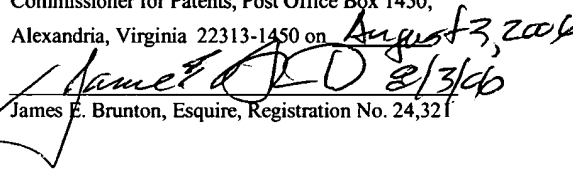
The Application as amended is now believed to be in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in the envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on *August 3, 2006*


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